



BAUWITIK (Rapid Waters) NEWS



Winter 2014-2015

December/ Little Spirit Moon/ Mnidoo Giisoonhs
January / Spirit Moon/ Mnidoo Giizis
February/ Bear Moon/ Mkwa Giizis
March/ Snowcrust Moon/ Naabdin Giizis

Aanii, Boozhoo..

Mino Nimkodaading!!!!

We have had a busy fall. Our drum groups have been busy attending and opening/closing gatherings within our schools, and also the community.

In October, Migwannanse (Little Eagle Feather) Drum Group opened the North Shore Tribal Council Education Gathering. Dion Syrette, student at White Pines, drummed for the First Nation, Metis, Inuit teacher in-service on November 6, 2014. Also attending on November 6, 2014, was Migwannanse Drum Group and the drum group from H.M. Robbins. Chi Miigwetch to Desire Mitchell and Jerry Martin for leading our drum groups, and to our First Nation community partners, who support and teach our young drummers. Our Migwannanse Drum Group has been invited to participate in the 5th Annual Immigration Forum on Thursday, February 12, 2015. We look forward to more invitations to share our songs and culture!

Jerry Martin - school counselor with H.M. Robbins drum group at White Pines C & VS - November 6, 2014.



Migwannanse (Little Eagle Feather) Drum Group from East View with Desire Mitchell.

Student Happenings around ADSB:

- **Welcome to Kindergarten registration** has begun for the 2015-16 school year and we continue our campaign to encourage parents to voluntarily self identify as First Nation, Metis or Inuit.
- Kerry Grbich's grade three students at **East View** had Frank Belleau from Garden River share his knowledge of plants and medicines while out hiking with the class.
- **Central Algoma Secondary School** students and **W.C. Eaket Secondary School** students participated in "**Roc Your Mocs**" on November 14, 2014. What a great way to connect with other students and schools.

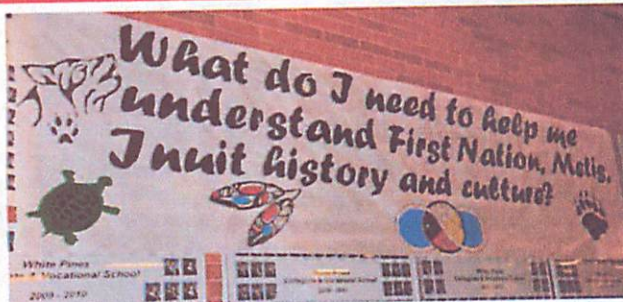


- We have eight students from East View and White Pines C&VS heading off to Parry Sound for a Student Success **Winter Leadership Camp**. They will be chaperoned by Serge Pietramale. This is a MOE and Tim Horton's partnership for our FNMI students .

The **Aboriginal Education Committee (AEC)** continues to work together on how best to support our First Nation, Metis and Inuit students. The group has been developing a five year plan, with the focus on First Nation, Metis, Inuit student achievement, effective communication and engaging First Nation, Metis, Inuit parents, to ensure student success. We are fortunate to have FNMI partners who advocate for their communities, families and students.

O Great Spirit whose voice I hear in the winds, I come to you as one of your many children. I need your strength and your wisdom. Make me strong not to be superior to my brother, but to be able to fight my greatest enemy: Myself.

Chief Dan George, Coast Salish, 1899-1981



On Thursday, November 6, 2014, at White Pines C&VS, a **First Nation, Metis and Inuit Learning Day** was held for elementary and secondary teachers. The focus of this in-service was "**Hear Their Voices**". Students across the ADSB region were asked to share their questions on First Nation, Metis and Inuit culture, history and traditions. Our purpose then, was to support teachers in answering some of the students' questions. Our students asked about language, how were homes built, First Nation, Metis and Inuit art, games that were played, how they lived, and residential schools.

Teachers spent time reviewing printed and web based resources that are now available on the portal, under the Aboriginal tab. This site is updated regularly, and provides teachers with access to relevant and authentic information.

Chi miigweetch to Elders Barbara Nolan and Peter Miigwans, who spent the day with us and shared their residential school experience. This was a very moving session. Teachers were given this opportunity, to not only hear their stories, but to ask questions as well.

Teachers were also provided with information about the First Nation, Metis and Inuit Collaborative Inquiry. This session provided teachers an opportunity to hear and see strategies that incorporate FNMI perspectives in Math, circles, and building community support.

Overall response from the day was very positive, and enthusiasm for engaging FNMI perspectives, very high.



ADSB Aboriginal Focus Group continues to meet. The group shared their FNMI initiatives that have been happening throughout the board. The document, "*Beyond the Shadows*" *First Nations Metis and Inuit Student Success*, by Pamela Toulouse, was a review for inclusive pedagogy, social justice, and student engagement.

The group also suggested putting FNMI events on a calendar, under the Aboriginal tab on the Portal, for teachers and ADSB staff to access.

Plans are underway for Youth Day in May. We are hoping to have Stan Wesley work with our Grade 8 First Nation, Metis and Inuit students.

Upcoming events for First Nation, Metis, Inuit Initiatives for 2015.

- FNMI Cultural Education Day at Algoma University - February 20, 2015
- Sault College Powwow - February 14 & 15, 2015
- Gathering at the Rapids Powwow at Algoma University - March 7 & 8, 2015
- FNMI Collaborative Inquiry meetings - February 10, 2015, April 15, 2015
- Aboriginal Focus Group meeting - February 10, 2015, March 11, 2015
- Aboriginal Education Committee - February 24, 2015
- Cultural Competency for grade 5/6 teachers - February 27, 2015
- Ski nii jik Giizhgat (Youth Day) - May 2015

For more information please contact:
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